

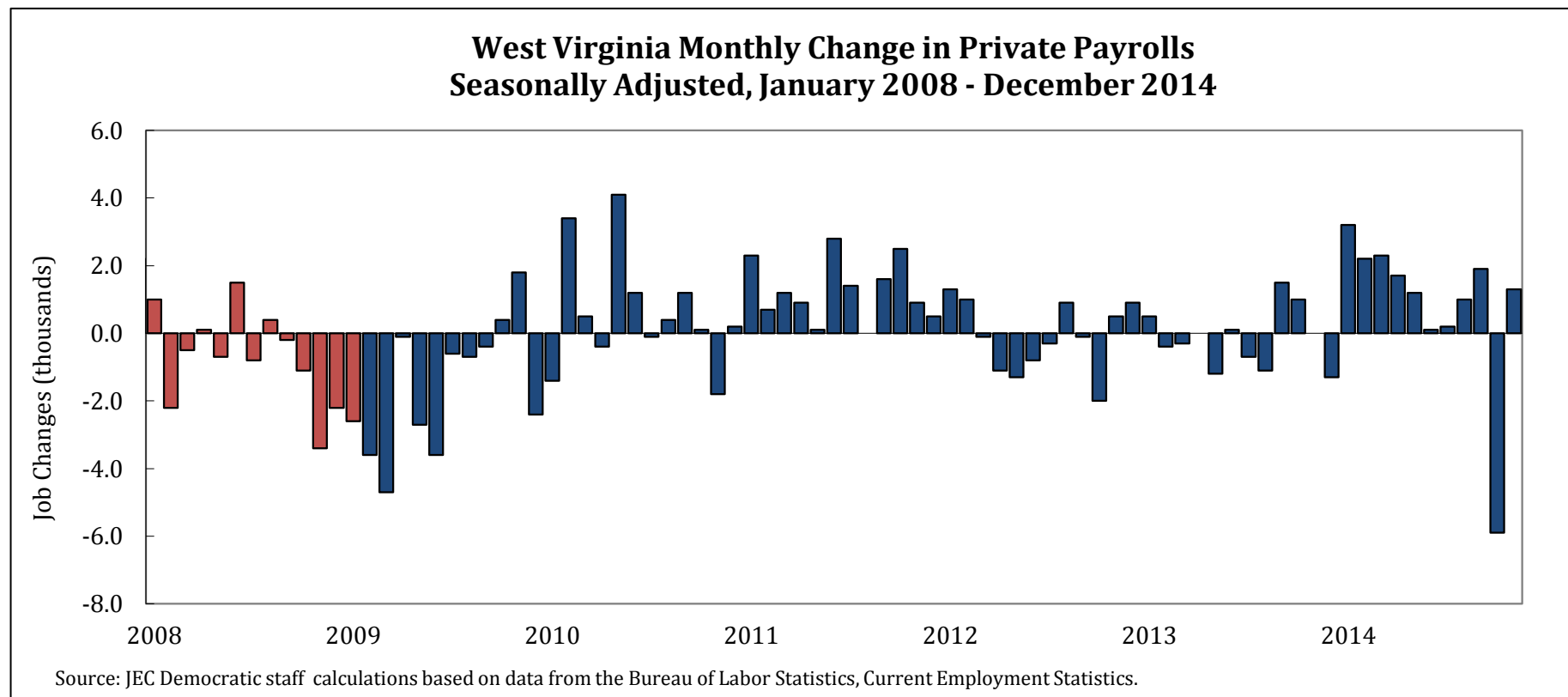


ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT: WEST VIRGINIA

Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs and unemployment data through December 2014

JOBS

- In December, private-sector employment in West Virginia grew by 1,300 jobs. Over the past year, the West Virginia private sector has added 7,900 jobs. This compares with an increase of 300 jobs over the 12 months ending in December 2013.
- West Virginia private-sector employers have added 29,900 jobs (an increase of 5.1 percent) since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment.
- In West Virginia, the following sectors have posted the largest job gains since February 2010: professional and business services (11,600 jobs), education and health services (8,500 jobs) and mining and logging (5,400 jobs).
- The West Virginia sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms since February 2010 are: professional and business services (19.2 percent), mining and logging (18.8 percent) and financial activities (7.7 percent).



UNEMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in West Virginia was 6.0 percent in December 2014, down 0.3 percentage point from November. The rate held constant from one year earlier and is below its recent peak of 8.5 percent in November 2010.
- 47,100 West Virginia residents were unemployed during December 2014, down from a recent high of 68,700 in February 2010. There are still 14,000 more people unemployed in West Virginia than when the recession began.
- In West Virginia, initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits totaled 6,314 during December, up 7.1 percent from the previous month. Total initial claims over the past 12 months are down 15.0 percent from their level over the 12 months before that.

EXPORTS

- In West Virginia, exports totaled \$558 million in November and \$7.4 billion over the past year, down 13.3 percent from the 12 months ending in November 2013 (inflation-adjusted dollars).
- West Virginia exports over the past 12 months are up 11.3 percent from their level in the same 12-month period four years earlier (inflation-adjusted dollars).

HOUSING

- Home prices in West Virginia increased by 2.7 percent from the third quarter of 2013 to the third quarter of 2014 (the most recent quarter for which data are available). They are up 7.0 percent since their recent low in the second quarter of 2011 but remain 0.2 percent below their pre-housing-crash peak.
- Housing starts in West Virginia totaled 2,660 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in November 2014, an increase of 26.7 percent from October.
- Within the South census region, which includes West Virginia, sales of new single-family homes totaled 253,000 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in December 2014, an increase of 17.7 percent from November. Sales of existing single-family homes increased by 4.9 percent to 1,910,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from November to December 2014.

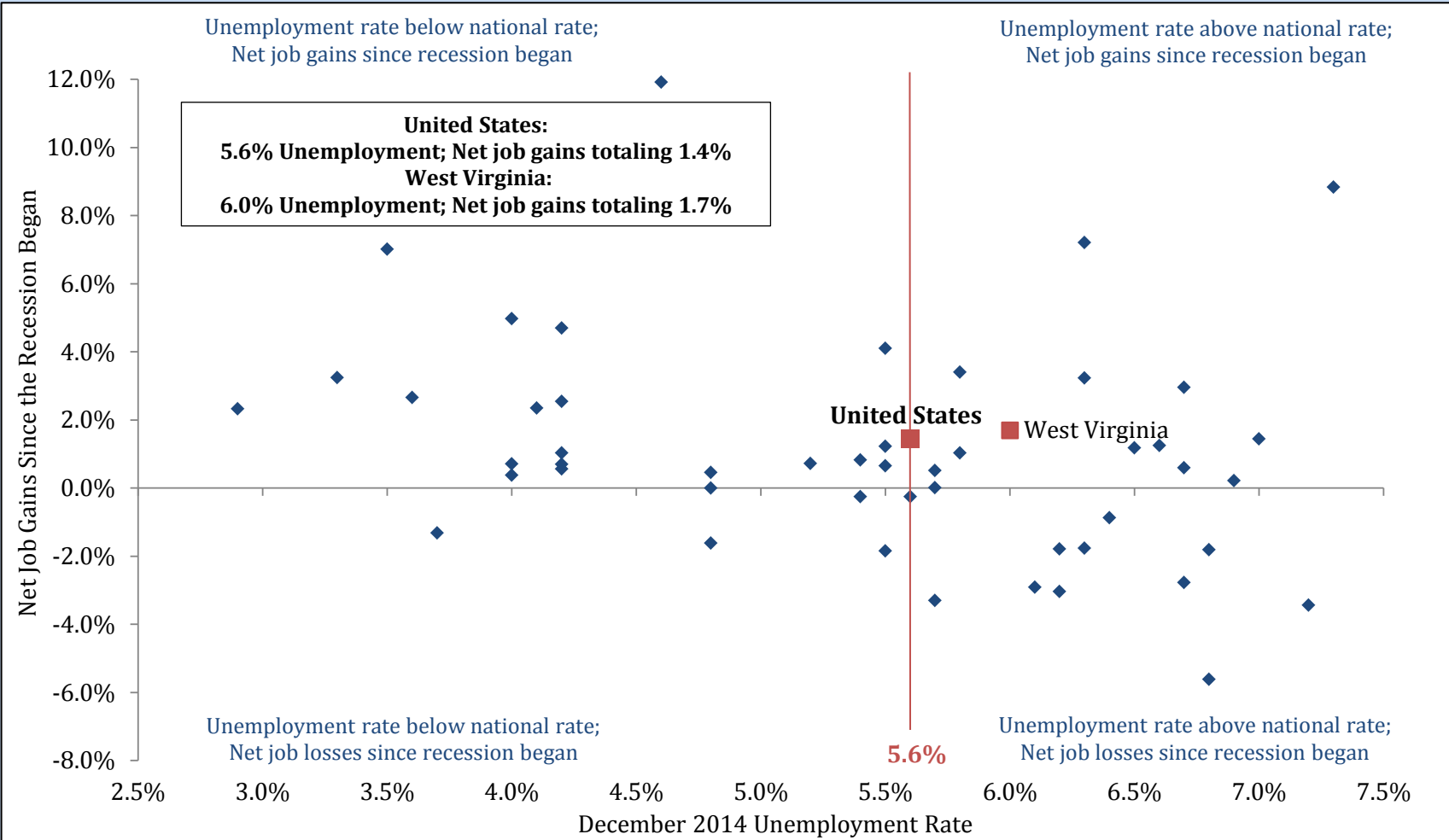
* For West Virginia-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the West Virginia office: <http://www.workforcewv.org/lmi/>

How Does West Virginia Compare to Other States?

Workers across the country were hit hard during the recent recession. Since then, employment in some states has returned to pre-recession levels, while employment in other states remains below pre-recession levels. The chart below allows for a comparison of West Virginia to other states using two metrics.

The unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor-market conditions in West Virginia, while net job gains since the recession began (current nonfarm jobs as a share of jobs prior to the recession) measures progress toward labor-market recovery (vertical axis).

States falling in the upper left quadrant have net job gains since the start of the recession and unemployment rates lower than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower right quadrant have higher unemployment rates than the United States overall and are still experiencing net job losses relative to pre-recession levels.



Note: The figure above excludes North Dakota, which has a current unemployment rate of 2.8% and net job gains totaling 31.5% since the start of the recession.

STATE QUICK FACTS

		West Virginia	United States
Unemployment Rate	December 2014	6.0%	5.6%
	December 2013	6.0%	6.7%
	December 2012	7.1%	7.9%
	December 2011	7.3%	8.5%
Percent of Population Who Are Veterans	2013	11.4%	9.0%
All Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2013	6.4%	6.6%
Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2013	8.4%	9.0%
Median Household Income (2013 \$)	2013	\$ 40,241	\$ 51,939
	(CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement) 2007	\$ 47,288	\$ 56,436
Poverty Rate	2013	17.3%	14.5%
	(CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement) 2007	14.8%	12.5%
Percentage Without Health Insurance	2013	14.0%	14.5%
(American Community Survey)			